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Washington,

May 29 1943.

This cable was [illegible] should be [illegible] by communication.

AMERICAN CONSUL

ISTANBUL (TURKEY)

63

In memorandum recently handed Department Greek Government states "so-called Albanian patriots" are waging campaign of terrorism against Greek population of Northern Epirus in effort to jeopardize status of Greek communities in that area.

Please telegraph any pertinent information obtainable by discreet investigation, with your comments.

NE:FDK:GC PA/M Eu

MAY 26 1943

Enciphered by _____

Sent by operator _____ M., _____, 19___, _____

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—25293-1

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PS/S MS

Copy rec'd from Greek Embassy June 29/43

MEMORANDUM

The Greek Ambassador in compliance with instructions from his Government has the honor to communicate the following to communicate the following to His Excellency, the Secretary of State.

The Greek Government is much concerned over the situation in Albania.

1. Definite information indicates that the so-called Albanian patriots are waging a campaign of terrorism against the Greek population of Northern Epirus. Pressure in various forms is exerted in order to compel the Greeks to renounce their national sentiments. Thus in the village of Georgoutsades houses were burned down because the inhabitants refused to sign such declarations. Many instances of robbery were noted and leading citizens were abducted.

2. The Greek Government deem it their duty to bring to the attention of the United States Government, as one of the Allies, the above facts, which have aroused the indignation of the Greek people and could provoke bloodshed between Albanian terrorists and Greek guerillas along the boundary.

3. These acts of violence of the Albanian partisans, in reality carry out policies of the Government at Tirana intended to jeopardize the status of the Greek communities of Northern Epirus, as witness the appointment to the Bishopric of Berat of Vissarion Giovanni, notorious for anti-Greek activities.

4. It is beyond doubt that these oppressive measures are aided by the Italians who, on the eve of their defeat, are trying to revive racial hatreds in the Balkan Peninsula and to flatter Albanian chauvinism, stirred by the declarations which the Allies thought fit to make concerning Albanian independence. In a statement of February 18, the Albanian Premier announced the formation of armed bands, to be used most likely, as was done in the past, to alter the national complexion of Northern Epirus, whose status is to be determined after the war .

5. The Greek Government hope that the United States Government will, as an ally, take under earnest consideration the subject matter of this Memorandum and will apprise the Albanians by any possible means that such policy is hostile and contrary to the principles upheld by the Allies.

For the present the Greek Government think it advisable to abstain from publicizing the above information which would certainly cause indignation among the Greeks in Greece and abroad.

Washington, D. C.
May 21, 1943

767.75/20

MAY 21, 1943 NOTE FROM GREEK EMBASSY

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JUNE 4, 1943 TEL. NO. 184R51 FROM TURKEY(ISTANBUL)

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768.75/

Central File: Decimal File 767.75, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Turkey And Albania, May 21, 1943 - June 29/43. May 21, 1943 - June 29, 1943. MS Turkey, Greece, and

the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1940-1944. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111395736%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 23 June 2025.